

REMARKS**Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102**

Claims 33-50 were finally rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Koblish (2001/0020174), referencing Figures 17-22 and paragraphs [0065] and [0093]-[0103]. The portions of Koblish relied upon are not found in the earlier filed Koblish application (Serial No. 09/447,186, filed on November 22, 1999). As a result, the effective filing date for the portion relied upon is the actual filing date of the Koblish publication, namely April 10, 2001, less than one month prior to the filing date of the present application. Applicants have filed concurrently herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 swearing behind the filing date of the Koblish publication signed by one of the inventors, Eric Chan, thus removing this reference as prior art against the present invention. Applicants note that the Koblish application issued as U.S. Patent 6,745,080 on June 1, 2004, but the claims of the patent do not appear to be relevant to the present claims. While the Rule 131 Declaration is filed to overcome the rejection based upon the Koblish application, it would be applicable against the issued Koblish patent.

Applicants have also amended the claims to require the distal shaft section having a helically shaped proximal portion with at least one loop with a plurality of ablation electrodes and a straight distal portion extending distally from the proximal portion with no ablation electrodes. New dependent claims have been added to cover

heretofore unclaimed subject matter. No new matter is introduced by the new claims. Support is found in at least Figures 5 and 13.

The applicants believe that the pending claims define patentable subject matter. Further consideration pursuant to the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination and an early allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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